



Special Report

Best Places For Business And Careers

Edited by Kurt Badenhausen 05.04.06, 6:00 PM ET

IN THIS YEAR'S RANKING of Best Places for Business and Careers, perennial top 10 metros like Atlanta, Austin and Washington, D.C.- Northern Virginia fell from the highest perch, hurt by slowing income growth. Newcomers that cracked the top tier include Houston, riding high on oil profits, and Phoenix, lifted by a housing and population boom. Overall, half of the top ten places are new this year. [More...](#)



The Very Best For Business

Best Metros

1. [Albuquerque NM](#)
2. [Raleigh NC](#)
3. [Houston TX](#)
4. [Boise ID](#)
5. [Knoxville TN](#)
6. [Phoenix AZ](#)
7. [Nashville TN](#)
8. [Durham NC](#)
9. [Fayetteville AR](#)
10. [Indianapolis IN](#)

[Complete List](#)

Sort Best Metros By:

[Rank](#) | [Metro Area](#) | [Cost Of Doing Business](#)
[Job Growth](#) | [Educational Attainment](#) | [Population](#)

Sort Best Smaller Metros By:

[Rank](#) | [Metro Area](#) | [Cost Of Doing Business](#)
[Job Growth](#) | [Educational Attainment](#) | [Population](#)

The Best



Map



The Worst



Best Smaller Metros

1. [Sioux Falls SD](#)
2. [Las Cruces NM](#)
3. [Fargo ND](#)
4. [Bismarck ND](#)
5. [Morgantown WV](#)
6. [Rapid City SD](#)
7. [Rochester MN](#)
8. [St. George UT](#)
9. [Johnson City TN](#)
10. [Logan UT](#)

[Complete List](#)

Featured

Ready for Takeoff

By Mark Tatge

Albuquerque has turned business-friendly—attracting new enterprises and creating highly skilled and well-paid manufacturing jobs.

River Revival

By Christopher Steiner

Grand Forks, N.D. has come a long way since a disastrous flood in 1997. Could it teach New Orleans a thing or two?

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By Miriam Gottfried

Youngstown, Ohio has tried to ignite economic revival— by building prisons.

[Help Wanted: The Ten Hardest Jobs To Fill](#)

By Richard C. Morais

Offshoring, layoffs, rehires – workers may not like the global workplace of the 21st century, but it suits Manpower just fine.

Vote

Which of these pricey areas is worth the high living costs?

- Boston, Mass.
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- Long Island, N.Y.
- Los Angeles, Calif.
- Naples, Fla.
- New York, N.Y.
- San Diego, Calif.
- San Francisco, Calif.
- San Jose, Calif.
- All of the above
- None of the above

[View Results](#)

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Which Best Place would you most like to live in?

- Albuquerque, N.M.
- Boise, Idaho
- Duham, N.C.
- Fayetteville, Ark.
- Houston, Texas
- Indianapolis, Ind.
- Knoxville, Tenn.
- Nashville, Tenn.
- Phoenix, Ariz.
- Raleigh, N.C.
- All of the above
- None of the above

[View Results](#)

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